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ABSTRACT

This volume explores the many ways in which college and university education influences the lives of individuals and society. While the book recognizes the economic benefits of a college education, it also surveys and lends support to the evidence of the noneconomic benefits of higher education, both for the individual and for the nation. The 15 chapters of the book are grouped into 4 parts: (1) setting the stage, (2) consequences for individuals, (3) consequences for individuals, and (4) a conclusion. Individual chapters cover the following topics: efficiency and accountability in higher education; goals and intended outcomes; cognitive learning; emotional and moral development; practical competence for citizenship and economic productivity; competence for family life, consumer behavior, leisure and health; the "whole person"; similarities and differences among institutions; societal outcomes and the ethos of higher education; societal outcomes from research and public service; progress toward human equity; economic returns on investment in higher education (prepared by Gordon K. Douglas); views of social critics (prepared by Peter Clecak); outcomes of higher education and worth to individuals; and the current debate on the future of American higher education. (Contains 650 references and a name index.) (CH)

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